

**Board of Conservation and Recreation  
Friday, August 1, 2008  
Smith Mountain Lake State Park**

**Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Present**

Sheryl D. Swinson, Chair  
Linda Crandell  
Gwen Mason  
Jennifer Wagner

Steven Murray, Vice Chair  
Richard Formato  
Mark E. Smith

**Board of Conservation and Recreation Members Not Present**

Alan D. Albert  
Joy Antoinette Cooley  
E. Carter Nettles

David G. Brickley  
Gerry Connolly

**DCR Staff Present**

Joseph H. Maroon, Director  
John R. Davy  
Joe Elton  
Brian Heft  
Robert S. Munson

David C. Dowling  
Michael R. Fletcher  
Keith Morgan  
Synthia Waymack

**Call to Order**

Chairman Swinson called the meeting to order. There was not yet a quorum.

**Smith Mountain Lake State Park Overview**

Brian Heft, Park Manager gave a welcome and overview of Smith Mountain Lake. Mr. Heft has been the manager at the Park for 16 years. He said that the 1992 Bond Referendum significantly changed the park.

Mr. Foreman arrived establishing a quorum.

**Minutes of May 1, 2008**

MOTION: Mr. Murray moved that the minutes from the May 1, 2008 meeting of the Board of Conservation and Recreation be approved as submitted.

SECOND: Ms. Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

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VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**Director's Report**

Mr. Maroon gave the Director's report.

He reviewed the details for the afternoon event. He noted that Board members would be given a tour of the park following the meeting and prior to the dedication event.

Mr. Maroon said that the recreation area would be named after Delegate Vic Thomas. Delegate Thomas, now deceased, was instrumental in gaining funds for the park and was an avid park supporter. The recreation area would be named the Smith Mountain Lake State Park A. Victor Thomas Outdoor Recreation Area.

Mr. Maroon said that regarding other state parks issues, DCR would be meeting in Harrisonburg the following week to discuss Grand Caverns and the possibility of the development of a new state park containing the caverns. He noted that the property is currently owned by a recreation authority. The General Assembly has asked DCR to study and to provide a report. Private cavern owners in the area have expressed concerns regarding competition.

Mr. Maroon said that DCR had been working on a section of the Mayo River in Henry County regarding the possibility of another state park. North Carolina has already begun development of a state park across the border. DCR has received assistance from the Dan River Basin Association.

On the Clinch River, in Russell County, Mr. Maroon said there is the possibility of the development of a state park or the enhancement of the natural area preserve at the Pinnacles. DCR staff has met with Delegate Bud Phillips.

Mr. Maroon said that the development of High Bridge State park was well underway. VDOT has done a significant amount of site work on the first five miles of the trail. He said that several miles of the park would be opened on August 27th.

Mr. Elton said that a grand opening is targeted for June 2009 on National Trails Day when the entire trail will be complete.

Mr. Maroon referenced a draft letter provided in member packets for the Board's consideration. The letter is addressed to the Governor from Board members and reiterated support for funding and support for DCR's Natural Area Preserve System. He said that later in the meeting the Board would be asked to consider action regarding the letter.

Ms. Mason said that while the Board knows the Commonwealth's current financial situation, the Board should be on record supporting the natural area preserve system.

Mr. Smith said there should be follow up to the letter with key legislators.

A member asked when the revised stormwater regulations would be complete. Mr. Maroon said that the current goal was to have them finalized by late 2009.

Ms. Wagner asked if there would opportunity for public review.

Mr. Maroon said there would be public hearings around the state. He noted that members could sign up through the Regulatory Town Hall to receive meeting notices.

Mr. Smith said that DCR is working with VCU to finalize intern opportunities.

### **State Parks Master Plans**

#### *Seven Bends State Park*

Mr. Munson presented the overview of the proposed Master Plan for Seven Bends State Park.

Seven Bends State Park is located in east-central Shenandoah County near the Town of Woodstock. The park consists of 1,066 acres situated in the geographically unique Seven Bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. The majority of the park was compiled from donated land. The Town of Woodstock donated almost 85 acres of what had been the town reservoir site. Dr. James R. Myers donated the largest parcel, consisting of almost 674 acres adjacent to the reservoir site. The third parcel, known as Camp Lupton, was purchased by the state from the Massanutten Military Academy and contained over 306 acres.

The master plan for Seven Bends State Park was developed in accordance with the master planning process set forth in the Code of Virginia. An advisory committee comprised of Shenandoah County residents, adjacent landowners, government officials, user groups, and local businesses worked with agency staff to craft the plan with the guidance of the public. As part of the development of the park master plan, goals and objectives and a park purpose statement were developed.

The purpose statement reads as follows:

The purpose of Seven Bends State Park, the gateway to the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, is to provide water and land based outdoor recreational and educational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the spectacular scenic viewshed and the unique geological, natural, and historical resources of the storied seven bends area of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River in Virginia.

Mr. Munson reviewed the planned developments for the park. A copy of the complete master plan for the Park is available from DCR.

*Widewater State Park*

Mr. Munson presented the overview for the proposed Master Plan for Widewater State Park.

Widewater State Park is located on the peninsula created by the confluence of the Potomac River with Aquia Creek in Stafford County. The park consists of 1100 acres with water frontage on the Potomac River and Aquia Creek. Dominion Resources originally acquired the site for an electrical generation facility. The park land was acquired by the state from the Dominion Resources in 2006.

The master plan for Widewater State park was developed in accordance with the master planning process set forth in the Code of Virginia. An advisory committee comprised of Stafford County residents, adjacent landowners, government officials, user groups, and local businesses crafted the plan with the guidance of the public. As part of the development of the park master plan, goals and objectives and a park purpose statement were developed.

The purpose of Widewater State park is “to provide premiere water and land based educational and outdoor recreational opportunities while protecting and interpreting the unique natural, historical, and cultural resources of the peninsula of the land cradled between Aquia Creek and the Potomac River in Stafford County.

Mr. Munson gave an overview of development plans for the park for day-use and overnight facilities. A copy of the Master Plan is available from DCR.

MOTION: Ms. Crandell moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend that Director Maroon approve the Master Plans for Seven Bends and Widewater State Parks as presented by staff.

SECOND: Ms. Mason

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**Recreation Road Access Recommendations**

Mr. Davy presented the following three recreation road access recommendations. He reminded the Board that their role was to recommend these to Mr. Maroon who would then forward them to the VDOT commissioner.

*New River Trail State Park*

The recommendation for New River Trail State Park is for an access road at Big Reed Island Creek. VDOT has already begun the planning for this road.

Ms. Swinson asked if this was the first recreational access road for New River Trail.

Mr. Munson said that there had been two previously.

Ms. Swinson asked if it was possible to seek funding for the same project multiple times.

Mr. Davy said that this was a new center for recreational development and would not be considered the same project.

*Fairystone State Park*

The request for Fairystone State Park was for access to an equestrian campground. He said that VDOT is not yet ready to move, but has agreed on the location.

*Crow's Nest*

Mr. Davy said this request was for the newly acquired property in Stafford County.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation accept the access road proposals as presented by staff and recommend that the DCR Director take the necessary actions that will permit the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide Recreational Access Road Funds for the projects at New River Trail State Park in Allisonia, Fairystone State Park in Patrick County and Crows Nest natural Area preserve in Stafford County

SECOND: Ms. Crandell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**Statewide Revisions to Regulatory Public Participation Guidelines**

Mr. Dowling said that the Board had addressed the issue of Statewide Revisions to the Regulatory Public Participation Guidelines at the May 1 meeting. However, since that

meeting additional refinements had been made to the model guidelines by the Department of Planning and Budget and the Office of the Attorney General.

MOTION: Mr. Formato moved the following:

**Motion to approve, authorize and direct through an exempt action the repeal of existing regulations and the filing of final regulations related to the Board's Regulatory Public Participation Procedures (§ 4 VAC 3-10)**

The Board authorizes the repeal of its existing Regulatory Public Participation Procedures Regulations (§ 4 VAC 3-10), adopts the Department of Planning and Budget's recommended model Public Participation Guidelines Regulations (§ 4 VAC 3-11), and authorizes the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Departmental Regulatory Coordinator to submit through an exempt action these regulations and any other required documents to the Virginia TownHall and to the Registrar of Virginia.

This authorization extends to, but is not limited to, the drafting of the documents and documentation as well as the coordination necessary to gain approvals from the Attorney General, the Administration, and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations for the final regulatory action publication.

The Board requests that the Director of the Regulatory Coordinator report to the Board on these actions at subsequent Board meetings.

SECOND: Ms. Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**Update on Partnership Opportunities for State Park Visitor Center Exhibits**

Mr. Smith said that at the last meeting the Board had viewed a presentation regarding the funding of State Park Visitor Center Exhibits. A subcommittee consisting of Mr. Smith, Mr. Brickley and Ms. Swinson looked at the opportunity and identified six or seven parks for which it might be feasible to seek corporate sponsorship.

Mr. Smith said that the subcommittee met with fundraising experts and received good counsel and advice. He said that further discussion needs to identify what the gifts will be used for and to consider the appropriate means of recognition.

Mr. Smith said that DCR was waiting for final information from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the Department's ability to accept gifts as a tax exempt entity.

Mr. Smith said that costs estimates were between \$400 to \$600 thousand per site. He said that the subcommittee was working with staff regarding the best way to proceed.

Mr. Elton said that in member folders were examples of brief presentations that would be made for this purpose. Copies of these examples are available from DCR.

Mr. Elton introduced Keith Morgan, Manager of Interpretive and Educational Programs for the Division of State Parks.

Mr. Morgan said that the intent is to have an interpretive management plan in every State Park. He said that the interpretive plan for exhibits would be a part of that.

Mr. Elton showed a brief video that demonstrated the type of new educational technologies that might be utilized in a park visitor center.

Mr. Smith said that the Board would work with the Director's staff. He said that it is important to have the internal controls in place for funds received.

Mr. Maroon said that the hope was that the Board would take on this project as they did with the Natural Area Preserves the previous year. He said the hope is that in the coming years there will be the opportunity to raise private funds and that the General Assembly can be encouraged to provide additional funding.

Mr. Maroon said that the Board and staff needed to move ahead with planning. He said there was a need to determine targeted approaches. This would not be a major fundraising campaign, but a targeted approach for specific opportunities.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Maroon presented a draft of a suggested letter for Board members present to send to Governor Kaine regarding funding for DCR's Natural Area Preserves.

MOTION: Ms. Crandell moved that the members present approve and sign the letter as drafted by DCR staff and that the letter be forwarded to Governor Kaine to show the Board's continued support for Natural Area Preserve system funding.

SECOND: Ms. Mason

DISCUSSION: None

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VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**State Parks Project Fund**

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved that the Board of Conservation and Recreation recommend approval of the following State Park Project Fund project:

Project 08-03 Sky Meadows State Park

Equestrian trail and facility improvements. \$2,500.

SECOND: Ms. Crandell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Swinson thanked members for the opportunity to have served as Board chair. She noted that according to the Board By-laws it was time to elect a new chair.

Mr. Murray moved that Mr. Smith serve as Chair of the Board of Conservation and Recreation. Ms. Crandell seconded and moved that the nominations be closed.

Mr. Smith was unanimously elected to serve as Board Chair.

Ms. Swinson moved that Mr. Murray serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Conservation and Recreation. Ms. Mason seconded. Ms. Crandell moved that the nominations be closed.

Mr. Murray was unanimously elected to serve as Vice Chair.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Conservation and Recreation will be Friday, November 14, 2008. The meeting location will be determined at a later date.

**Adjourn**

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There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark E. Smith  
Chair

Joseph H. Maroon  
Director